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Message Text

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44
ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 CU-04 USIA-15 VO-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /053 R

DRAFTED BY AF/N:GMLANE:EW
9/6/73 EXT 22622
APPROVED BY AF/N:JJBLAKE
SCA-MR. SMITH
CU/AF-MR. DALSIMER
---------- 023694
R 061543Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176965

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS,OEXC LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN STUDENT PROGRAM

1. CRIPPIN AND MIZE OF AFME CALLED ON LIBYAN DESK OFFICER AUG. 29 TO DISCUSS AFME PROGRAM IN LIBYA. THEY SAID THERE WERE 337 LIBYANS STUDYING IN US UNDER AFME PROGRAM, ALL BUT SIX OF WHOM HAD RETURNED TO US. MIZE MADE SPECIAL PLEA ON BEHALF THREE REMAINING STUDENTS, ALI EL CONSUL, ALI RAHIMA, AND TAHER DALI, WHO HAD NOT RETURNED BECAUSE THEIR DEPENDENTS HAD NOT RECEIVED VISAS. (DEPT HAS ALSO RECEIVED SIMILAR APPEAL ON BEHALF OF ABDUL HAFID GAMAR FROM OCCIDENTAL).

2. AFME REPS SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 300 ADDITIONAL STUDENTS IN US UNDER LARG PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY LIBYAN CULTURAL ATTACHE TAYYAR. SINCE MOST OF THESE STUDENTS ARE UNMARRIED THEY HAD LESS DIFFICULTY IN RETURNING TO US. HOWEVER, AFME REPS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT INCREASING NUMBERS OF LIBYANS WERE COMING TO US UNDER THIS PROGRAM WITH I-20 FOR LANGUAGE STUDY ONLY AND NO ADMISSION FOR FULL TIME ACADEMIC STUDY AT AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION.
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3. COMMENT: WHILE NOT WISHING TO GIVE AWAY ANY CHIPS BEFORE THE GAME IS OVER, DEPT WOULD LIKE TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO AFME WHICH DEPENDS HEAVILY ON LIBYAN CONTRACT. APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY STUDENT DEPENDENTS, IN BOTH AFME AND LARG SPONSORED PROGRAMS ARE STILL AWAITING VISAS? COULD EMBASSY GRANT VISAS TO DEPENDENTS OF STUDENTS NAMED BY MIZE (AND OCCIDENTAL) AND STILL MAINTAIN SOME LEVERAGE? IF SO, DEPT RECOMMENDS THIS STEP. ON OTHER HAND, WE WOULD PROPOSE IMPOSING STRICTER STANDARDS FOR GRANTING OF F-1 VISAS TO LARG-SPONSORED STUDENTS AND CONTINUING DELAY OF ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO DEPENDENTS OF SUCH STUDENTS. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS. RUSH

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